



NEWSLETTER

*Listopad/Prosinec 2023*

November/December 2023

337 Brookridge Street  
Green Bay, WI 54301



Dobry den

From Wisconsin Czechs, Inc

Naše České Dědictví

Our Czech Heritage

# Naše České Dědictví (Our Czech Heritage) Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

Page 1

*The Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. was organized to promote the cultural achievements of the Czech and Slovak people. This is achieved through the study and celebration of the art, music, literature, language and history of the lands.*

*Organized in 1978, the club is cultural and non-political. Membership is open to all persons of Czech, Moravian or Slovak ancestry and those interested in Czechoslovakian heritage.*

*Our ancestral home is made up of the Czech Republic including the provinces, Bohemia and Moravia. The Slovak Republic, to the east of The Czech Republic, is also a part of our heritage.*

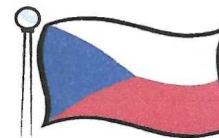
*The Wisconsin Czechs' activities include the promotion of the Czech heritage and culture through four meetings held each year, and attendance and participation in other ethnic festivals and events in the state.*

**The Wisconsin Czechs sponsors a scholarship program.**

*The scholarships are financed through the selling of cookbooks which include ethnic recipes. Scholarships are awarded to qualifying high school seniors who are members or have a parent, or grandparents who are members of the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. and have been members for at least the past two years.*

*Meetings: Masopust, Scholarship, Pout' and Christmas*

*The Wisconsin Czech Choraliers present Czech folk music to anyone requesting their program. The Choraliers sing in English and Czech languages. If you would like to hire them for an event, call: (920)432-1556.*



## Officers

### President

Tom Cook (2023)  
(920) 835-5607  
[wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com)

### Vice-President

Betty Schleis (2023)  
(920) 863-8232  
[jackbettys@yahoo.com](mailto:jackbettys@yahoo.com)

### Secretary

Carol Sisel (2024)  
(920) 901-1058  
[csisel@charter.net](mailto:csisel@charter.net)

### Co-Treasurers

Gail Johanek  
(920) 455-9875  
Karen Konop  
(920) 432-1556  
[Krohrkonop@aol.com](mailto:Krohrkonop@aol.com)

*For information regarding this organization, Czech food, Czech music and links to other Czech sites go to: [www.wiczzechs.com](http://www.wiczzechs.com)*

### Website Editor

Ann Cramer  
(920) 979-3551  
[cramerann@ntd.net](mailto:cramerann@ntd.net)

## Board Members

Pam Kronforst (2025)  
(920) 639-8795  
[pmccarykronforst@mail.com](mailto:pmccarykronforst@mail.com)

Ann Cafilisch (2023)  
(920) 756-3471  
[cafilisch@charter.net](mailto:cafilisch@charter.net)

James Young (2024)  
(920) 619-5920  
[Jamesyoung1426@gmail.com](mailto:Jamesyoung1426@gmail.com)

### Scholarship Chairperson

Betty Schleis  
(920) 863-8232  
[jackbettys@yahoo.com](mailto:jackbettys@yahoo.com)

### Cookbook & Historian

Sally Teresinski  
(920) 582-7836  
[sallyteresinski@outlook.com](mailto:sallyteresinski@outlook.com)

### Pageant Chairperson

Susan Krubsack  
(920) 637-0302  
[Susank1029@hotmail.com](mailto:Susank1029@hotmail.com)

### Choraliers Director

Orv Konop  
(920) 432-1556  
[okkonop@aol.com](mailto:okkonop@aol.com)

Send information for the January/February newsletter by January 12, 2024

to: [wisconsinczechs@aol.com](mailto:wisconsinczechs@aol.com)  
phone: (920) 835-5607



Cover Photo: Christmas ornaments made in Poniklá, Czech Republic a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) site.

## President's Message

As I write my last message as president of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. I reflected on the last 3 years. I am thankful for several things. One is the leadership of past officers and Board members who provided the financial soundness of our organization to survive, first of all the Covid epidemic when we were unable to meet. Yet, we had the financial means to continue our scholarship program and also provide financial assistance to other programs with like goals. The Board and officers also laid the groundwork for a system to follow through the development of the procedural manual and written guidelines and by-laws.

As we look forward to our organization's future, we face the challenge of motivating and encouraging the younger generation in our communities to take up the task of learning about our heritage. This we can do this by exposing them to the music, foods and celebrations that were passed down to us. The use of technology that wasn't available to our growing up, enables them to see events of our homelands, communicate with and forge with the next generation in our ancestral countries, exposing them to music, both popular and folk. There is a need for them to understand the history of our ancestors, both those who emigrated and those who remained in the home country.

Everyone has a role to play in fostering an understanding of our heritage, and also the part our Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. plays in promoting our organization and its future role.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. I encourage everyone to use this time of the year to expose family members and friends to some of the Czech and Slovakian tradition, whether it be the food, music, decorations or traditions handed down to you.

Tom Cook, President Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.

Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.		6/21/2023		
Treasurer's Report as of 12-21-2022				
Gail Johaneck and Karen Konop	Debit	Credit		Balance
Checking #8863 on 2/15/23				<b>\$2,044.57</b>
Income - membership dues		\$ 780.00		
Masopust reservations		\$ 1,000.00		
Scholarship reservations		\$ 1,318.00		
Donations		\$ 64.50		
50/50 raffle		\$ 67.50		
Amazon Smile (May) stickers/pins		\$ 15.62		
		\$ 5.00		
Expenses - Scholarship checks	\$ 750.00			
J. Young - dance add	\$ 75.00			
Happy Hoppers - dance	\$ 175.00			
Rendezvous -Masopust dinner	\$ 810.00			
Janoski (audit stipend)	\$ 30.00			
CGSI sponsorship	\$ 500.00			
Envision Jan newsletter 291.19	\$ 568.38			
April Newsletter 277.19				
Suster's (scholarship dinner)	\$ 1,252.43			
Ann Cafilisch (scholarship expenses)	\$ 37.80			
Manitowoc Lincoln HS 50/50 raffle	\$ 67.50			
Total Checking #8863				\$1,029.08
Savings # 1301 on 2/15/23				\$6,691.41
Income - cookbooks donations		\$ 375.50		
Interest		\$ 1,268.00		
Total Savings #1301		\$ 4.53		\$8,339.44
Savings #1465 on 2/15/23				\$4,044.52
Interest		\$ 2.52		
total savings 1465				\$4,046.52
Certificates of deposit #5778 on 2/22/23				\$5,495.76
interest - March - June		\$ 18.09		
Subtotal CD 5778				\$5,513.85
#5781 on 2/22/23				\$5,558.19
Interest (March - June)		\$ 64.23		
Subtotal CD 5781				\$5,622.42
Total CD's				\$11,136.27
Grand Total				\$24,551.31

**Is your membership current? Check the date after your name on the mailing label. The year your membership expires is listed there.**

### Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. 2024 Scholarship News

By Betty Schleis

The Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. announces that four scholarships of \$750 each will be awarded in 2024. The scholarships will be given to 2024 graduates from public, private or home-schooled. The scholarships are open to any graduating senior whose parent or grandparent is a member in good standing of the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.. The scholarships will be awarded during the second semester of the student's freshman year of college. A transcript of the first semester's grades and the current mailing address at the second semester must be forwarded to the scholarship committee chairperson. The scholarship will then be forwarded. The deadline date for receiving scholarship applications is the second Monday in March. Any application with a post mark date after the second Monday in March will not be considered.

To send for a scholarship application, please send the request and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Betty Schleis, N 1441 Knutson Road, Denmark, WI 54208.

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### Cookbooks

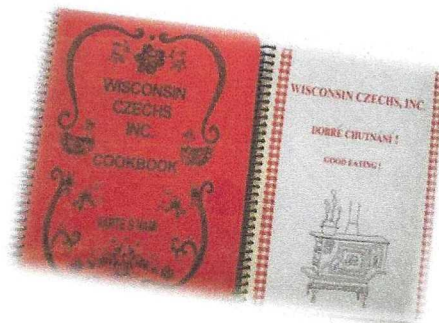
Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. sells cookbooks at meetings, festivals, events & by mail throughout the U.S. The sales of these cookbooks support four annual scholarships that are awarded to high school seniors.

*Vařte s námi: Cook with Us* (1984-red) and *Dobré Chutnání: Good Eating* (1996-white)

**The books are companion books; there is no recipe duplication. About 1,100 recipes are available in both books. Each has an alphabetical index. Represented are the Czech Republic & Slovakia.**

These cookbooks may be purchased at the following locations:

- \* Algoma Motors, Algoma, WI
- \* Book Nook, Manitowoc, WI
- \* The Cech Connection / [jvogel@tm.net](mailto:jvogel@tm.net)
- \* Kugel's Cheese Mart, Lena, WI
- \* [locowisco@gmail.com](mailto:locowisco@gmail.com)
- \* NCSM&L, Cedar Rapids, IA
- \* Olde World Pastries, Little Suamico, WI



To purchase cookbooks by mail, check our website: [www.wiczzechs.com](http://www.wiczzechs.com) or contact Sally Teresinski at (920)582-7836 or by email: [sallyteresinski@outlook.com](mailto:sallyteresinski@outlook.com) The cost is \$20.00 each. \$3.50 is charged for P&H.

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### Our history

Our history with newsletters from 1980, programs, Board and membership meeting minutes are deposited with the Wisconsin State Historical Society in its collection at UW-Green Bay. The Cofrin Library houses these collections in the Library's Archives. The Archives accepted our 2022 documents. The Wisconsin Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin (UW) System cooperate in a network of Area Research Centers (ARCs) located at UW campus libraries throughout the state and at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Our collection at Cofrin can be requested by anyone from another ARC; by the same token, Cofrin can get materials from any library in the state. Cofrin Library can be reached at (920) 465-2540. The historical scrapbooks are still a work in progress.

Sally Teresinski, Historian



**2023 Scholarship Banquet  
Susters Arcade  
Denmark WI  
May 7, 2023**

The annual Scholarship Banquet began with the dinner prayer given by Ruth Prochazka at 12 o'clock noon. After a great dinner of broasted chicken and sides the Scholarship meeting began at 12:36 pm with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance directed by President Tom Cook.

President Cook greeted all of the members, scholarship recipients and their families. He asked for any other guests to be acknowledged but there was no response from the membership. Tom continued with extending his thanks to Ann Cafilisch for being the chairperson for today's event. Gratitude continued to Sally Teresinski for the programs, Gail Johanek and Karen Konop for their duties of reservation collection and name tag creations, and lastly to the staff at Susters for preparing a great meal. Lastly, the introduction of Betty Schleis as Scholarship Committee Chairperson, along with committee members of Rose Quinlan, Diane Steinberger, Mary Vogel and Judy Yanda was made.

The meeting continued with the acceptance of the secretary's report from the last organizational meeting. Jeff Rabas made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Jack Schleis, the motion so moved.

The treasurer's report was given by Gail Johanek. She reported no changes. Karen Konop gave her membership report. She indicated that she keeps a ledger with member's names on from previous years. Anyone interested in reviewing this list, may see it. Our current membership stands at 245.

The 2023 Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant in on June 16-17, 2023. The organization is still looking for candidates that may be interested in entering. The application is due by May 31, 2023. If further information is desired, girls may go to the pageant website. If anyone, with younger girls ages 7-12, is interested, there is an opportunity for a younger girl to be a little sister. This is a great opportunity to explore the pageant.

The Wisconsin Czechs website is working on making improvements. Ann Cramer requested that members who have photos of events they'd like posted on the site should send them to her. In the future the membership may have access to this website. It may include communication between members, access to past newsletters and other possibilities. Ann also indicated if there is anyone that is interested in helping her with further developments to please contact her.

Sally Teresinski greeted and congratulated today's scholarship winners. She indicated with this award, a one-year membership is also included. Sally reported that our current inventory of cookbooks is 53 white and 61 red. The proceeds of these cookbooks go directly into the scholarship fund. The cookbook program began in 1983 which is when the scholarship fund was implemented and in 1984 the first cookbooks were sold. A list of our current vendors is listed in the newsletter. Joy Krejcarek and Jeff Rabas, two of our vendors are present today. Sally indicated our newsletter has a basic guideline for publication. Everything that is published relates to our heritage. Lastly, Sally made another request for someone to become a co-chair with her for handling the cookbooks.

President Cook gave information about the Friendship Table Monument Dedication on Sunday, August 6, 2023 in Central Park East in Two Rivers, WI. Tom placed flyers on the table with all the information for this event. This sculptor is to honor the deep cultural connection between the cities of Two Rivers and Domažlice.

The upcoming Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Conference will have the Wisconsin Czechs logo and sponsorship level in the conference book. Ann Cramer reported that this is a great connection if you are looking for information about your ancestors. If you know the village your ancestors were from and their birthdates, you may be able to find more information about a specific family member. CGSI may teach you how to do this. It is a great experience to find family history. They do this at the conference every year. Ann Cramer is a member of the Sokol Milwaukee which is 150 years old. Members have four meetings a year about genealogy. Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> they have a meeting on zoom. If you are interested in the zoom meeting you may contact Ann Cramer or if you are interested in the next meeting of the Milwaukee Sokol, you may contact her as well.

Jim Young gave a presentation of the success of the Masopust with the Happy Hoppers. He reported that both clubs made a profit of \$165.00.

Tom Cook reported that the newsletter format will remain the same for the electronic version. He indicated that he sent out nine electronic versions and 230 printed versions. He reported that twelve organizations get the printed copy. Eight pages of the newsletter are more economic verses twelve. The printer can automatically fold eight or twelve pages, where ten pages have to be folded by hand. Please let Tom know if you would like your newsletter sent to you electronically. When you receive the electronic version, you'll see it has a different view than the paper copy.

We did not qualify for the last payout from Amazon Smile. This program has been discontinued. There may be an opportunity to for some funds using PayPal; more information to follow.

The following dates for **upcoming WI Czech events** are as follows:

**July 17, 2023:** WI Czech Board meeting either at the Brown County Library or the Cup of Joy restaurant.

**July 21, 2023:** All articles for the next newsletter are due.

**August 27, 2023:** The Pout' Banquet and meeting will be held at Eddie Whipps, Poland, WI. Betty Schleis will chair this event.

**September 9, 2023:** Cultural Festival at the Kroc Center, Green Bay, WI ; the WI Czech Choraliers will be performing.

**December 9 and 16, 2023:** Christmas display at the Brown County Historical House (Hazelwood House). We need ideas for a Czech decorated Christmas tree.

The following dates are for other Czech events:

June 17-18, 2023 Czech/Slovak Ethnic Festival Queen Pageant in Phillips, WI.

The drawing of the 50/50 raffle was done by Ann Caflisch. Leonard Wavrunek was the winner of \$150.00. Viola Dancoková and Mateo Zamazal who are foreign exchange students at Notre Dame Academy for the past year. They gave a little talk. There was a difference of opinion between the two when it came to the American cuisine. They will be returning to their homes at the end of the school year.

Before the introduction of the scholarship winners, Ann Caflisch announced that we will need new candidates for the board at the end of this calendar year. It is very important that we get candidates to fill this position.

Betty Schleis introduced the four winners of the 2023 WI Czech Scholarship. The winners read their essays. The four students are as follows:

Joshua Anhalt a student at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School will be attending UW Whitewater majoring in Accounting/Financial Investment.

Cadence Kuhn a student at Hilbert High School will be attending UW Eau Claire majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Audrey Rabitz a student at Manitowoc Lincoln High School will be attending St Cloud State University majoring in Biomed/Physical Therapy.

Ryley Robinson a student at Algoma High School will be attending UW Green Bay majoring in Biology/Exercise Science.

We wish these four students success in their future careers and goals.

A motion was made by Jeff Rabas to adjourn today's meeting. Jim Young seconded the motion. The motion moved at the closing time of 1:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol A Sisel  
WI Czech Secretary.

## Election for the Vice-President and Board Member position

At our December 3, 2023 Christmas meeting there will be the election for the Vice-President and a Board member positions. Betty Schleis's position as Vice-President and Ann Cafilish as a Board member end on December 31, 2023. The President's position will be vacant as Betty Schleis is resigning as of December 31, 2023 due to health reasons.

The Candidates for Vice-President are:

Gloria Kaminecki	Green Bay, WI
Joy Krejcarek	Manitowoc, WI
Joe Kvitek	Whitelaw, WI

The Candidates for the Board position are:

Debbie Hansen	Green Bay, WI
Mary Johnson	Manitowoc, WI
Josh Ledvina	Luxemburg, WI
Nancy Randolph	Manitowoc, WI



## MEMBERS PROMOTING WISCONSIN CZECHS, INC. AND OUR CZECH, SLOVAKIAN, MORAVIAN AND SILESIAN CULTURES



(left) Sally Teresinski's Made in Czechoslovakia (1918-1992) display in July at the Oshkosh Senior Center. (Not pictured) JoAnn Vogel displayed and provided samples of Czech desserts at the Manitowoc County Historical event on July 17, 2023.



Tom Cook shares information about the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc and the Czech culture with visitors at the CGSI conference in October 2023.

(Right) Members of the Czech Choraliars singing in the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. booth at the Kroc Center's International Day on September 9, 2023. Members are: Caroline Hlinak, Joy Krejcarek, Bernie Boushka, on the accordion, Ove Konop and Ruth Prochazka. Their performance really attracted people to our booth.





## Czech Christmas Ornaments

The village of Poniklá recognized for its tradition of glass beads and process for making Christmas ornaments.

Do you have any glass Christmas ornaments passed down through your family or have purchased beaded ornaments from folk fairs? There is a good chance that they have a Czech origin near Krkonoše in the village of Poniklá in North Bohemia. This village was added to UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, scientific, and cultural organization) cultural heritage list in December 2020.



Christmas ornaments made in Pomiklá, Czech Republic

Cloth had been manufactured in this area since the Middle Ages. However, since making glass beads was more profitable, residents of the area switched to bead production.

Legend has it that the bead making process was started by Mr. Hajna who fell in love with a local maiden. They married and he brought the basics of the bead making process to Poniklá. The craft was quickly picked up by his neighbors who used the glass bead making process to supplement their income in the poor mountainous area. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, more than 480 families in the area

participated in the bead making process. Staneslav Horma opened the Rautis factory in 1902 to produce decorations for clothing, employing at one time 200 people.

Originally glass beads were used to manufacture necklaces, brooches, hat needles and earrings. In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century most of the production was switched to be used in ornaments. Poniklá in the Czech Republic is the only place where this traditional method, using a cottage type industry, has been preserved. In 1920 Japanese visitors copied the process and started production of the beads for use in jewelry and clothing. This took away the eastern markets and caused the Czech manufactures to switch to using them in glass Christmas ornaments which just were becoming popular. These were an immediate success and became exceedingly popular in the first half to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1948 factories producing glass beads were nationalized by the communists. This benefitted the village of Poniklá since most of their production was done in individual homes; thus they were left as the only area producing the glass beads. After the communist regime fell, Poniklá's production and distribution factory was privatized. While much of the assembly of the ornaments takes place at the Rautis factory, most of the production of the glass beads and blown glass bulbs used for ornaments continues in the private homes of the area as in the past.

While the glass makers in Poniklá use the traditional processes for making the glass ornaments, two other companies located also in Bohemia produce glass Christmas ornaments. Ornex in Jablonec nad Nisou in North

Bohemia known for its jewelry creations also produce glass Christmas ornaments. One of the largest manufacturers of hand painted glass Christmas



Cookies prepared for decorating the Christmas tree



(above) A string of star and angels made from straw.  
(left) An individual straw angel.



ornaments is DUV Cooperative in Dvůr Králové nad Labem in East Bohemia. While many Czech families as well as people all over the world use the glass ornaments, many also decorate with gingerbread men, houses and other baked goods and fruit. Others decorate with characters made of corn husk, straw or wood formed into various dolls and characters.

(continued on page 10)



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### We say Goodbye

Rose Marie Kubsch died on August 1, 2023, at the age of 97. A member of the Wisconsin Czechs from 1981 to 2017, Rose served the organization as a member of the Board of Directors 2001 – 2003. She chaired quarterly meetings, a favorite of hers was the Christmas meeting. Rose Marie was a member of the Wisconsin Czech Choraliers, joining the group at its beginnings. How she enjoyed the quarterlies which featured Czechoslovakian old-time music!

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We Remember the members of the Wisconsin Czechs who have passed away this past year:

Mary Medo

Mary Ann Blahnik

Evelyn (Ruzek) Steeber

Wilma F. Rehbein

Ken Schlies

(Continued from page 9)



The corn lady pictured to the left comes from the Slovácko region of the Czech Republic. Corn leaves were used to make different kinds of decorations. This started to spread in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In many poor families, corn leaves were used to make different products, which were later sold in the market providing the families with some money.

To make a corn doll dried leaves were soaked in warm water with a detergent. This makes the leaves firmer, so they do not break while being worked. The design of the particular doll depends on the skill of the individual creator.

\*\*To view the glass making and painting processes for ornaments you can find several good videos on u-tube explaining the methods for making and painting the

A traditional corn leaf character often used as an ornament.

### Vítejte

Welcome to the following people who have recently become members of Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.:

Theresa Gatz Wittenberg, WI

ornaments.

### Děkují mnohokrát

Thank you very much to the following people who made donations to the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.:

In Memory of:

Jarmila Hruban to Scholarship

Other donations:

Betty Schleis to scholarship

Modern Woodman of America's Hometown Hero Award

Honoring Pam and Gale Kronforst

Congratulations Pam and Gale

# Wisconsin Czechs, Inc. Christmas banquet/meeting

**DATE:** Sunday December 3, 2023

**WHERE:** **The Rock Garden**  
1951 Bond St. (off Taylor Street north of Fleet Farm West)  
Green Bay, WI



**TIME:** 11:00 am Social hour and Christmas Market  
12pm: Dinner  
12:30 – 1:45 Membership Meeting  
2:00 – 4:00 Entertainment – Bernie Boushka

**MENU:** Serving buffet style with: broasted chicken, dressing, vegetables, mashed potatoes, potato salad, coleslaw, fresh fruit and dessert

**COST:** Dinner with tip included:  
Adults: \$20.00  
Children: ( 4-10 years old) \$12.00, 3 and under Free

Return this portion -----

Return this portion -----

## Reservation for Christmas Banquet

Please return by: **Friday, November 24, 2023**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

# adults attending \_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# children to 4-10yrs old) \_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 ea = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount sent in: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservation fees are Non Refundable**

I / We wish to renew our membership in the Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.  
Please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my /our membership dues for \_\_\_\_ years through the yr. 20 \_\_\_\_.  
Annual membership dues are \$12.00 per person.

### Gifts

I/We would like to contribute a donation to the following fund:  
Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Pageant Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to make a donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Write checks payable to Wisconsin Czechs, Inc.  
Return Paid Reservations and/or Memberships to:

**WI Czechs**  
**Gail Johaneck – Treasurer**  
**1008 Nicolet Ave.**  
**Green Bay, WI 54304**